

Miscellaneous Selections.

LONDON, FEB. 12. Yesterday, in the Commons, Lord Folkestone presented the petition of the Spafeldts Meeting—at the same time expressing his opposition to granting the political prayer of it.

Lord Cochrane also presented the Hampshire petition agreed upon at a public meeting at Portsmouth, at which 50,000 persons, he said attended. The petition after enumerating the usual grievances complained of, prays for annual parliaments, and universal suffrage to persons of 21 years of age.

Lord Cochrane complained, that while this meeting was holding, the garrison of Portsmouth remained under arms,—the yeoman cavalry on active duty, and all the troops had ball cartridges delivered out to them. Mr. Chute denied that the meeting was called by the country, but by some restless spirits of London; and that the measures adopted were called for by all peaceable citizens for the preservation of the public peace.

Lord Cochrane also presented a petition from the Journeymen Tailors of London, praying for a parliamentary reform, as a remedy for their lack of work. [A loud laugh.] All the petitions were ordered to lie on the table.

A touching scene occurred, says a French paper, on Thursday last in Faubourg St. Jacques. Two soldiers with their knapsacks on their backs apparently returned from a long journey, entered the shop of a fruiterer in that quarter, and asked for something to drink. The mistress herself served them. Her son had joined the army five years ago, but she had since received no accounts of him; this induced her to ask the strangers some questions. Her son, she said, was in such a corps of the army, and must have been at Moscow; without doubt he is dead, she added weeping. "No, no," replied one of the soldiers, "he is in your arms." In fact, she soon recognized her son, whose long beard and tattered dress had at first concealed him from the eyes of his mother.

Some particulars respecting the death and burial of Midshipman EDWARD WATTS of the town of Portsmouth (N. H.) in a letter from Mr. Watson, Clerk of the U. S. Ship Washington, dated Gibraltar Bay Feb. 4.

On the night of the 30th ult. while on our passage from Malaga to this place, Mr. Watts was attending to his duty in the mizen top, where he was stationed, and unfortunately fell through the top to the deck.—He soon recovered the use of his senses, and the faculties of his mind remained unimpaired until a short time before his dissolution, when he for the first time uttered a few incoherent words. The injury that proved fatal to him, was a fracture of two of the bones forming the spine. Every possible attention was paid to his situation by Dr. Washington and the surgeons mates of the ship but it was out of the power of the faculty to save him. He survived the unfortunate accident but three days, apparently in but little pain.

His remains were interred this afternoon with naval and military honors, at the burying place appropriated to the officers of the garrison of Gibraltar. His funeral was attended by the officers of the squadron, and a detachment of the squadron, and a detachment of seamen and marines. A procession of boats was formed from the ship, which proceeded to the shore rowing minute strokes, and was received at the landing place by a guard of British soldiers ordered out for that purpose by the Governor.

In the death of Midshipman Watts, the service has lost a most promising young officer, and his brother officers a cheerful friend and companion. This sudden dispensation has spread a gloom upon the countenance of all on board the ship. His brother officers have already agreed to erect a neat and handsome marble monument to his memory. They sincerely sympathize with Mr. Watt's friends on this sorrowful occasion.

DRUNKENNESS—The following elegant satire on this most detestable and common vice, is extracted from the European Magazine, for November, 1816.

Drunkenness expels reason, drowns the memory, distempers the body, diminishes strength, inflames the blood, causes internal, external and incurable wounds, is a clog to the senses, a devil to the soul, a thief to the purse, the beggar's companion, a wife's woe, children's sorrow, the picture of a beast, and self murderer, who drinks to others good health, and robs himself of his own.

A MONKISH BULL.—An Italian Monk has written a life of St. Francis Xavier, where he asserts, that by one sermon he converted ten thousand persons in a desert island.

From the Wilkesbire Gleaner.

CAPTORS OF ANDRE.

We have again taken up our pen on the subject of the disclosure made by Col. Tallmadge, under an impression that he has been very ill treated by several editors of public journals, and others, who appear to be very illiberal in their attacks upon the character of a worthy officer of the revolution.

That such men as Mr. Binns should be the first to bark on this occasion is not at all surprising, since he is certainly among the first rate of our imported patriots: and although he did not set his foot in America until about twenty years after the transaction alluded to, yet he has run the race of patriotism so much faster than any of our native citizens, that he is no doubt entitled to be considered a full blooded patriot of '76.

But we regret sincerely, to see the late editor of the Courier and the editors of the Federal Republican dip their pens in gall to blot the well earned fame of an American officer. It is true that the story of the capture of Andre, as it has generally been told, is a fine page of American history, and it is to be regretted that it should not have been strictly true. Our object is not to vindicate either Col. Tallmadge or Isaac Van Wart, but to ascertain the truth. We profess to love our country, and delight in her fame, but we should regret to see the American character raised on any other foundation than that of truth and justice. Let us then take a short view of what has recently been disclosed on this subject.

We are first presented with an affidavit of Isaac Van Wart, who is one of the parties concerned, and in a legal investigation he could not be admitted as a witness in his case.

Van Wart assures us that he had secreted himself by the "side of the high way for the purpose of detecting persons coming from, or having unlawful intercourse with the enemy, being between the armies, a service not uncommon in those times." Here then is the fact stated to you by the man himself, since, although a man may not be a witness in his own favor, he may certainly make a confession of the facts with which he is charged. Van Wart does not even pretend that he belonged either to the American army or the militia, since he was not stationed there for any particular purpose; nor does it appear that he belonged to any particular company, for no such thing is mentioned. Had he belonged to any volunteer company, or to any part of the army, the record of that circumstance would have been the best testimony to have offered on this occasion; but no, he does not attempt to make this appear. He states in substance that he was of that class of men, who with their guns, stationed themselves "between the armies" to "detect any persons" passing back and forth. It is indeed too true that this was "a service not uncommon in those days." So much for Van Wart's own confession—now for the certificate.

Seventeen men, from 60 to 70 years of age, certify that "during the revolutionary war they were well acquainted with Isaac Van Wart, David Williams and John Paulding, who arrested Major Andre, and that at no time during the revolutionary war was any suspicion ever entertained by their neighbours or acquaintances, that they or either of them "held any undue intercourse with the enemy." This is the whole amount of the certificate. There were hundreds of "Cow Boys" who held "no undue intercourse with the enemy." They only robbed the enemy of what they could get, and at other times pilfered from the Americans. Pilfering was considered no robbery in those days, and those who chose to wait until the war was over, before they joined either party, made the best they could of bad times, and lay "between the two armies" to detect any persons.

As long ago as we can recollect to have heard the story of Major Andre's captivity, (and we confess that we know nothing of it but what we have heard) we remember the declaration of officers on that station, that the men who took him were "Cow Boys," and that they

carried him to what was considered the best market, and we now believe that nineteen in twenty of the officers then there, who are now living, will say that such was the general opinion at that time.—That such was the opinion of Andre himself, and also of two American officers, who certainly had an excellent opportunity of knowing the public opinion, there can be no doubt; but superior to all this, we have what I consider Mr. Van Wart's own confession of the facts.

There has certainly nothing appeared which shows that Col. Tallmadge wished to injure these men; he might have made this declaration years ago, yet he was willing they should enjoy the reputation which they possessed; but when they petitioned Congress for an additional pension, (I ask pardon of Mr. Getz) when John Paulding petitioned Congress for more money, implying that they had not been sufficiently paid for the service, then was a time when it became the duty of Col. Tallmadge, as a member of Congress, to declare the facts, that the members might better decide how to act. These men received the thanks of Congress, and a medal, besides a yearly pension of two hundred dollars during life, for simply performing what was the duty of every honest American to perform, and which never cost them so much as a scratch on the finger; and now, after a lapse of thirty-six years, when they find the members of Congress helping themselves to a little more money, these men want a little more too. Hundreds of widows and orphan children, whose husbands and fathers have fallen on the field of battle, now suffer in poverty and obscurity, while these men, who were in the prime of life, and who have never shed a drop of blood in defence of a country which has done so much for them ask for a little more money. In this request the "Cow boy" is sufficiently apparent. It has been said that these men could have accepted the bribe, and let Andre go. They could so, but they must have been consummate villains to have done it; and they probably expected to get more from the Americans for him than what Andre offered for himself. Feeling, however, that the sum is a little deficient, they want a small addition; and, as it is worth more than two hundred dollars a year to be honest, they must have a small bonus besides.

The character and services of Col. Tallmadge certainly demand the confidence of his fellow citizens. He served his country faithfully through the bloody war of the revolution, and received the thanks of the Commander in Chief, and of Congress, for his gallant conduct in the destruction of the British stores on Long Island, which will live with gratitude in the bosoms of the American people, when the names of Gardener, Allen & Co. and the humble Editor of the Gleaner, shall be remembered no more.

The fate of invention.—Dionysius the tyrant, ordered the most ingenious artist in his dominions to build a subterranean prison, consisting of inextricable labyrinths, for the purpose of immuring the unhappy victims of his vengeance for life. After it was finished, much to the satisfaction of the despot, the too successful artist, left he should divulge "the secrets of the prison house," or lend a clue to unravel the gloomy maze of the ancient Babel, was the first prisoner whom the tyrant confined therein.

Phalaris formed a brazen bull, so contrived that the cries of any person enclosed in it should resemble the roaring of that animal. He gave it as a rare present to his tyrannic master, informing him of its qualities and advising him to use it as an instrument for punishing offenders, by placing it over a large fire and baking its miserable tenant to death. The King, pleased with the idea, and anxious to make an experiment of its virtues, ordered the inventor to be duly placed in the bull, who, however unambitious of the honor, proved the first victim of his ingenuity.

The builder of the first Stocks ever erected in Boston, for charging too high a price for his labour thereon, was adjudicated to give the public a two hours sample of their use in correcting the consciences of the people.

The inventor of the Maiden, in Scotland, a machine for beheading, expired on the scaffold his art had erected.

So also Dr. Jean Guillotine, formerly a member of the French National Assembly from Lyons, and who was the inventor of the machine which bears his name was reduced a head shorter by the work of his own hands.

HENRY IV. King of France, considered this maxim superior to any other; "the satisfaction derived from revenge is only momentary, brutal, pleasure, that leaves an envenomed sting behind; but that gained from clemency is godlike, serene, and lasts forever."

The Magnetic Needle, after increasing in declination Westward for 160 years, till its declension was 25, is now returning to the north.

The following communication, addressed to the Printers of the papers in Boston was handed to us by the agent for the Exchange Coffee House Reading Room, and we publish it for the edification of the curious.

[Boston Daily Adv.]
Account of a Remarkable Phenomenon witnessed by James Fuller and others, on board the schooner Only Son, while on her passage from Norfolk to Boston.

On Thursday, the 3d inst. at 9 P. M. Cape Henry Light bearing W. by S. about 7 leagues distant, the mates watch on deck, he hearing strange noises in the air with distant thunder and observing black clouds rising at the north, although it was nearly calm, thought it prudent to call all hands on deck. As soon as I and the passengers had come on deck we beheld the main-top-mast apparently all on fire. It descended down the maintopmast stay to the foremast head, from thence down the jib stays, with a large blaze at the jib boom end, at the same time.

It came trickling down the maintopmast, and ran across the fore and aft stay to the foremast-head, and also descending the maintop lift to the outer end of the main-boom. All the sails were down to the booms. The appearance of fire aloft increasing, we were fearful of being consumed by it, but the clouds arose from the north attended with lightning, thunder and rain, which put an end to the fiery appearance, that had spread almost all over the rigging, though not quite to the decks. The duration of the fire was about 30 minutes.

It was more alarming from the great hissing, like that occasioned by throwing fish into a frying pan of hot fat, and a snapping like the burning of oyster shells in a hot fire. Sparks flew in every direction to the distance of 2 or three feet from the spars and rigging aloft.

A true statement signed by the master, mate and two passengers.

JAMES FULLER, of Kingsdon, (Mass.) Master;
EBEN FULLER, of do. Mate;
SAM'L W. FALES, of Dedham
WM. P. R. BENSON, of Providence.

From the Boston Messenger.

On Saturday last Levi Ellis of New-Hampshire was sent to the State Prison for life by sentence of the municipal Court. He was convicted of burglary in breaking open the mansion-house of the Hon Judge Davis in the night time in January last, stealing divers articles of silver plate including tumblers, spoons and a tankard. As he had been acquainted in Judge Davis's kitchen some years ago, and had afterwards been in the State Prison for passing counterfeit money, and had once broken jail in this town, he was among the persons who were suspected of having committed the burglary. But no clue to the offender was found until about three weeks ago he sold a couple of the tumblers at the shop of Mr. Churchill in his absence. Mr. C. on returning to his shop, recognized the tumblers immediately, although they were defaced and broken up, as he had made them for Judge Davis, and had observed some peculiarities in the finishing. The boy described Ellis, but knew not whither he went. Ellis afterwards offered another to Mitchell, who told him it was Judge Davis's plate, on which Ellis decamped. But from the description given it being evident to constables Lane and Reed who he was, and knowing that he belonged to a town about twenty miles beyond Portsmouth, they searched the vessels bound that way, and heard that he had gone home.—Mr. Lane was immediately sent after him, and by the help of some good citizens in New-Hampshire, found him in his own house, and some of the stolen spoons in his possession, and also some silver bars, into which he had melted the tankard. He was brought to town the Saturday before last. The initials of the owner's name were erased from the spoons, but so badly as to leave parts of letters that were easily discerned by the goldsmiths, on his trial. He had got them newly marked with the letters L. E. when on his arraignment he was asked whether he was guilty; his answer was, "I did not break into the house." It is supposed he had an accomplice. From numerous circumstances the points in the indictment were clearly proved to a most respectable jury as to the breaking and entry and the time of night.

We are gratified to learn (says the Norfolk Herald) that an order has been issued from the Navy Department, for the immediate discharge of all hired slaves or colored men who may be retained as labourers or servants in the Navy Yards, &c. of the U. States, and forbidding in future the employment of any other than white persons. This

regulation will extend the means of subsistence to a large number of poor and industrious white men, out of employ, at the same time that it will prove an effectual remedy against a system of speculation, said to have been profitably exercised in a certain quarter, where the government has paid full price for services which had been previously bargained for at less than one half, or perhaps one third of the pay, as established by law. It will be recollected that the President in his inaugural speech, declared his determination to keep a strict eye over the public expenditures, and to overhaul every agent of government whom he might find misusing the public money; "and that accounts for it."

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Capt. Hitch, of the ship Parnassos, arrived at N. York, from New-Orleans, informs that on the 20th March a mob collected at New-Orleans, in consequence of the British ship Hamilton, representing in her vane the tri-coloured flag in disgrace to the present National flag of France. It resulted in the death of one English sailor and several others wounded, and the destruction of the ships masts and lower rigging; on the appearance of Gen. Ripley with part of his forces, the mob dispersed.

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 8.

Swallowing Notes.—On Friday last four persons were arrested and committed, on the suspicion of having stolen eight \$5. notes. Strong circumstances having induced a belief that they had swallowed the money, emetics were administered. In consequence, one of the suspected persons, John Smith, cast up two notes of the United States Bank, each of one hundred dollars. The others did not deliver any.

True American.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 11.

Three Soldiers of the U. S. Army about two weeks ago were arrested at Sackett's Harbor for stealing a cow. A Mr. Bradley, one of the citizens who went in pursuit of the soldiers and their plunder, received a shot from one of them a little below the groin. The wound was very severe; and at first supposed to be mortal. The soldiers were examined and committed to the jail at Watertown to take their trial at the next general sessions.

RALEIGH, APRIL 4.—Important Judicial Decision.—At the late Superior Court of Law of Johnston county, one John S. Tarr was offered as a witness and objected to, upon the ground of defect of religious principle. Witnesses were called who deposed that on divers occasions Tarr had declared, that he did not believe there was either a heaven or hell; nor any future rewards or punishments! It was contended on the other side, that Tarr should be sworn to declare whether he believed in a God, and in a future state of rewards and punishments.

The Judge (C. J. Taylor) said, that on the one hand it would be incongruous to permit a man to be sworn, where the very question was whether he was qualified to swear; and on the other, that he agreed with those who held that a man shall not be compelled to disclose opinions which go to disgrace and degrade him: he could not therefore permit a man to be exposed to such a temptation to suppress the truth.

Tarr was rejected as utterly incompetent to give evidence, and as a person to whose oath the law gives no credit.

Essentially a Villain.—An imposter called himself R. F. Murray, went to Wilmington N. C. and cajoled some respectable society into a belief that he was an exile under the pressure of pecuniary embarrassments. A man of some literary attainments, great attention to business, and consummate hypocrisy, he succeeded in marrying a young lady of 16 years old, belonging to a family in the highest rank of respectability. In six weeks the villain, having forged the names of those persons who had first given him sustenance, and sold a false check upon a banking company to his father-in-law, absconded. His youthful wife is thus left a prey to misery and disappointment, and his confiding friends may find their only consolation in revenge.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The English ministry we are inclined to believe, look upon the attack made upon the prince regent, as a most fortunate political windfall. For a long time previous to the sitting of parliament, the public mind had been wrought up to a paroxysm by the inflammatory speeches of Buxid, and Cobett, and Hunt, and Cochrane. Reform, reform, demands for the suppression of sinecures, annual parliaments, universality of suffrage, &c. were thundered in the ears of the ministry until parliament were called together, while the whole nation was more or less affected by such violence of remotance. At the very outset of all this business, while the opposition were congratulating themselves on this favorable prospect, the outrage is committed on the prince regent. This affords the ministerial party a fair opportunity to play the same game that their political opponents have done. They will now put all their ministerial machinery in motion. We shall hear now of assemblies of the people presenting their addresses of loyalty at the foot of the throne, expressing the most unqualified horror at this atrocious attack, accompanied with an inflexible resolution to support the constitution, and the sovereignty of the house of Hanover. The mayor and the common council of London have already taken the lead in this business—they have told the prince regent in their address, that